

## July News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

### Opportunities Now: WGF Releases Meeting Wisconsin's Deer Conservation Challenges



Our new report, produced by the Wildlife Team at Wisconsin's Green Fire, examines several threats and trends that, taken together, are affecting the future of Wisconsin's white-tailed deer herd.

The report discusses the threats Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) poses to deer and human health; explains the ecological effects of high deer densities on forest habitat quality; discusses the lack of antlerless deer harvests and reduced hunter numbers in Wisconsin; and concludes with recommendations for policy and actions on the state and local levels to ensure the health and safety of Wisconsin's deer and their habitat.

Key recommendations for Wisconsin:

- Overhaul Wisconsin's 2010-25 CWD Response Plan. Prioritize efforts to reduce disease prevalence, slow its spread, and develop a rapid response to new detections.
- Establish a long-term strategic conservation plan for white-tailed deer.
- Complete development and approval of Wisconsin's Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) plan by 2023. The R3 of deer hunters should be a top Department priority.
- Remove statutory restrictions that prevent implementation of effective herd control using October firearm seasons and Earn-a-Buck.
- Create a 10-year deer conservation reinvestment fund for implementation of the white-tailed deer strategic conservation plan.

Questions or follow up? Contact WGF Wildlife Work Group co-chair Tom Hauge at: [thauge.1953@gmail.com](mailto:thauge.1953@gmail.com)

See the Full  
Report



## Update: WGF Leads Climate Assessment Project in Monroe County



In the 13 years between 2007– 2020, there were 20 major flood events in Monroe County, WI, with 2018's extreme flood event causing major damage to roads and infrastructure. Officials began to recognize the troubles in their county and on August 28, 2019

took a historic step when the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to address climate change and increase resiliency in the county. The county created a Climate Change Task Force made up of Monroe County infrastructure, conservation, and emergency management personnel as well as biologists from the WDNR and Fort McCoy, farmers, and county supervisors. This task force partnered with Wisconsin's Green Fire to lead a collaborative effort to conduct a comprehensive climate change assessment in Monroe County.

The Monroe County Climate project is being coordinated by Monroe County Land Conservation Dept. Director Bob Micheel, and Wisconsin's Green Fire - Executive Director, Fred Clark. WGF's climate change work group chair Nancy Turyk is helping lead outreach on the effort and WGF's Heather Stricker will be providing GIS and technical support.

In October 2021, our project team(s) will deliver a final project report to Monroe County, detailing assessment of climate vulnerabilities and risks, projections for future impacts, scenarios for conservation-focused alternatives using nature-based solutions, and recommendations for policies and practices to help create and achieve high resilience conditions. The process and practices created through this project can be adopted by other counties and municipalities to address climate change.

[Read more about the project on Monroe County's website](#)

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## Updates from Wisconsin's Wolf Harvest Advisory Committee Meeting

The Wisconsin 2021 Wolf Harvest Advisory Committee held their second meeting on June 22nd to discuss Wisconsin's planned fall





wolf harvest season. This committee's primary charge is to provide the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) with input on the management objectives and harvest quota for the statutorily required fall 2021 wolf hunt.

Adrian Wydeven, co-chair of WGF's Wildlife Work

Group, serves as the WGF representative on the committee. Other committee members include three other WGF members serving in other representative capacities, as well as representatives from hunting, conservation, and environmental groups, organizations representing farmers and ranchers, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and representatives of state and federal agencies across Wisconsin.

WGF supports a conservative, science-based approach to wolf harvest decisions. Considering the uncertainties surrounding wolf population modeling, the range of potential non-harvest effects on the wolf population, and the long-term effects of the February wolf harvest, WGF members have made the case that WDNR must use the best available science and conservative assumptions in setting quotas for the fall 2021 harvest.

WDNR staff will also consult directly with tribal representatives in July regarding quota recommendations. Following tribal consultation, department staff will present their recommendations for quota and other details for a season framework to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) for approval at the NRB's August 12th meeting.

Read the WDNR press release announcing the pre-harvest wolf population estimate [here](#)

[Read more about the committee meeting](#)

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## Protecting Wisconsin's Pollinators: WGF Supports New Pollinator Protection Package

In honor and recognition of Pollinator Week, Wisconsin Rep. Lee Snodgrass (D-Appleton) and Sen. Melissa Agard (D-Madison) introduced the Pollinator Protection Package to preserve and protect our irreplaceable





and vitally important pollinators. Bees, birds, butterflies, beetles, wasps, moths, bats, and flies will all benefit from these bills and legislative resolution that protect pollinators and their habitat across Wisconsin!

Wisconsin is an important place for pollinators.

Home to over 20 at-risk pollinator species, Wisconsin's ecosystems, agricultural crops, and natural areas rely on pollinator health to thrive. These new pollinator protection bills will take steps to fight threats to pollinators and their habitat.

The joint legislative resolution acknowledges and promotes the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator habitat, such as choosing native plants and leaving leaf litter for egg laying and seasonal hibernation. One bill would allow local municipalities to regulate pesticides to protect pollinators and their habitats, while another bill would prohibit the use of neonicotinoid insecticides by the WDNR on their state-owned lands.

Wisconsin's Green Fire joins a number of other organizations that are concerned about helping our pollinators. If you are interested in learning how you can protect pollinators, check out these resources:

[Pollinator Partnership](#)

[Xerces Society](#)

[Center for Biological Diversity](#)

[Natural Resources Foundation's](#) Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Fund

Read more about pollinators and how you can protect them!

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***Back Together Again***  
**Join WGF's Annual Meeting and**  
**Our Regional Conservation Conversations**





Our statewide (virtual) Annual Meeting this year is **September 23rd from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. Dr. Christine Thomas** (UWSP - Dean of the College of Natural Resources, retired) will keynote our conversation on the conservation traditions in Wisconsin and opportunities for students and young professionals.

Then, pull on your boots and come join us at one of our **WGFRegional Conservation Conversations**. We'll be holding sociable, in-person gatherings where all are welcome. Locations include Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, and Rhinelander. Look for registration information in future e-newsletters or visit our website!

Wisconsin's Green Fire needs your support now more than ever. Your donation assures that conservation issues around the state are addressed with the best scientific information available.

**Give Today to Support Conservation Tomorrow!**

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